

Message Text

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R 231112Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6491
INFO AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 VIENNA 04714

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, SHUM, CZ, AU
SUBJ: VISIT OF CZECH FOREIGN MINISTER TO AUSTRIA

SUMMARY. IN COURSE OF THREE-DAY (MAY 11-13) OFFICIAL VISIT TO AUSTRIA, CZECHOSLOVAK FORMIN CHNOUPEK MET WITH AUSTRIAN PRESIDENT KIRCHSCHLAEGER AND PARLIAMENTARY PRESIDENT BENYA CONCERNING THEIR UPCOMING VISITS TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND WITH AUSTRIAN FONMIN PAHR FOR REVIEW OF INTERNATIONAL ISSUES AND BILATERAL RELATIONS. CHNOUPEK STRESSED THEME OF DISARMAMENT WHILE PAHR RAISED LIST OF HUMANITARIAN CASES AND POSSIBILITY OF ABOLISHING VISAS. TRADE AND JOINT DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN THIRD COUNTRIES WERE ALSO DISCUSSED. BOTH SIDES EXPRESSED PRIVATELY THEIR SATISFACTION WITH RESULTS. INDICATIONS ARE THAT BILATERAL RELATIONS WILL UNDERGO FURTHER NORMALIZATION DURING BALANCE OF 1978 AT PACE WHICH CHNOUPEK SUGGESTED PRIVATELY WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO CSSR DOMESTIC POLITICAL SCENE. END SUMMARY.

1. CSSR FORMIN BOHUSLAV CHNOUPEC MADE AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO
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AUSTRIA MAY 11-13, 1978, RETURNING SPRING 1975 VISIT OF FORMER AUSTRIAN FORMIN BIELKA. IN VIENNA, CHNOUPEK CALLED ON AUSTRIAN PRESIDENT KIRCHSCHLAEGER AND PARLIAMENTARY PRESIDENT BENYA, HAD A "FRANK, BUSINESSLIKE AND FRIENDLY" EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH AUSTRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER PAHR, SIGNED A MINOR BILATERAL AGREEMENT ON REGULATIONS OF RIVER BOUNDARIES AND HELD PRESS CONFERENCE. VISIT ALSO INCLUDED

TOUR OF SALZBURG TO EXAMINE FIRSTHAND AUSTRIAN EFFORTS IN TOURISM. MFA SOURCE WHO TOOK PART IN VIENNA ASPECTS OF CHNOUPEK PROGRAM PROVIDED FOLLOWING SUMMARY OF HIGHLIGHTS OF VISIT.

2. CHNOUPEK VISIT, WHICH WAS POSTPONED LAST YEAR BY CSSR BECAUSE OF SUDETEN GERMAN MEETING IN AUSTRIA, WAS ORIGINALLY RESCHEDULED FOR EARLY JUNE OF THIS YEAR. HOWEVER, PRAGUE PRESSED IN MARCH FOR DATE IN APRIL AND AGREED TO VISIT IN MAY. ACCORDING TO AUSTRIAN MFA, URGENCY OVER ADVANCING CHNOUPEK VISIT WAS BASED ON DESIRE TO AVOID BEING AT BOTTOM OF LIST IN EASTERN EUROPE REGARDING IMPROVEMENT OF RELATIONS WITH AUSTRIA AFTER WHAT APPEARED TO BE VERY SUCCESSFUL KREISKY VISIT EARLIER IN YEAR TO GDR.

3. CHNOUPEK CALLS ON BENYA AND KIRCHSCHLAEGER DEALT LARGELY WITH GENERAL PROGRAM FOR PROJECTED VISITS TO CSSR BY BENYA, LEADING PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION, IN JUNE AND BY KIRCHSCHLAEGER FOR OFFICIAL VISIT IN OCTOBER. IN ABSENCE OF CHANCELLOR FROM AUSTRIA, CHNOUPEK RAISED WITH PAHR PARAMETERS OF EARLIER PROPOSED INFORMAL WORKING MEETING BETWEEN STROUGAL AND KREISKY WHICH NOW PROBABLY WILL TAKE PLACE IN BRATISLAVA IN SEPTEMBER.

4. ON INTERNATIONAL ISSUES, CHNOUPEK MADE STRONGEST REPRESENTATIONS TO PAHR ON DISARMAMENT, STRESSING CONFIDENTIAL

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PARTICULARLY NEED TO GENERATE FORWARD MOVEMENT ON CONTROL AND BANNING OF NUCLEAR AND OTHER WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION. COMMUNIQUE ON VISIT CONTAINS MORE GENERAL TREATMENT OF DISARMAMENT THEME AND CALLS FOR END TO ARMS RACE OF ALL TYPES OF WEAPONS AND ARMED FORCES WITH "AIM OF ACHIEVING GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT UNDER STRICT INTERNATIONAL CONTROL."

5. AUSTRIANS RERAISED IN PRAGUE, PRIOR TO VISIT AND IN CONNECTION WITH HELSINKI ACCORD, LIST OF ABOUT 50 HUMANITARIAN CASES. IN RESPONSE TO PAHR DISCUSSION OF SUBJECT, CHNOUPEK PROMISED, IN EFFECT, FAVORABLE RESOLUTION OF ABOUT 16 NONSENSITIVE CASES. BALANCE OF CASES INVOLVE MOSTLY CZECHOSLOVAKS WHO SUPPORTED "PRAGUE'S SPRING" AND WHO ARE NOW LIVING IN AUSTRIA AND TRYING TO GET FAMILY MEMBERS OUT OF CSSR. ABSENCE OF FLAT REJECTION BY CHNOUPEK OF THESE CASES SUGGESTS TO AUSTRIANS THAT SOME ACCOMMODATION MIGHT BE POSSIBLE AT LATER DATE. GOA PLANS TO CONTINUE ITS APPROACH ON HUMAN RIGHTS, NAMELY, TO REMIND GOC PERIODICALLY IN LOW KEY AND PRIVATELY OF NEED TO RESOLVE THESE CASES IN INTEREST OF BETTER RELATIONS.

6. ON ECONOMIC MATTERS, CHNOUPEK REGISTERED PROFORMA COMPLAINT ABOUT AUSTRIAN TARIFF AND NONTARIFF BARRIERS TO CSSR GOODS WHICH RESULT FROM AUSTRIA'S MEMBERSHIP IN EFTA AND ITS SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP TO EC-9. BOTH SIDES AGREED ON EXISTENCE OF POTENTIAL FOR INCREASED BILATERAL TRADE AND

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 VIENNA 04714

EXPANDED COOPERATION IN THIRD-COUNTRY PROJECTS. HOWEVER, MFA SOURCE NOTED IN LATTER REGARD THAT EXPERIENCE WITH TWO EXISTING THIRD-COUNTRY PROJECTS HAS BEEN LESS THAN SATISFACTORY. ON ECONOMIC-COMMERCIAL SIDE, GOA FEELS THAT BILATERAL RELATIONS MUST UNDERGO CONSIDERABLE FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS (E.G., SOME ACCOMMODATION ON VISA REQUIREMENTS) BEFORE GOA IS READY TO EXTEND CREDITS FOR INVESTMENT IN CSSR OR FOR INCREASED TRADE AS IT IS DOING WITH POLAND.

7. ON VISA REQUIREMENTS, CHNOUPEK SAID THAT DEVELOPMENTS HAD NOT YET REACHED STAGE WHERE ABOLITION OF VISAS -- GOA MAJOR OBJECTIVE IN BILATERAL FIELD -- COULD BE CONSIDERED, OFFERING USUAL EXPLANATION ABOUT SHORTAGE OF HOTELS AND OTHER FACILITIES FOR FOREIGN VISITORS. HE ALSO TURNED DOWN AUSTRIAN FALLBACK POSITION THAT VISA ISSUANCE AT BORDER BE ARRANGED. IN INFORMAL PRIVATE MEETING WITH PAHR, CHNOUPEC SUGGESTED THAT ELEMENTS IN GOC WANT TO EXPAND RELATIONS WITH WEST AND PARTICULARLY WITH AUSTRIA, BUT THAT PACE MUST BE GEARED TO WHAT CSSR INTERNAL POLITICAL SCENE WILL FIND ACCEPTABLE.

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8. COMMENT. UNLESS SOME UNEXPECTED DEVELOPMENT INTERVENES, AS HAS HAPPENED IN PAST, AUSTRIAN/CZECHOSLOVAK RELATIONS WILL MOVE RAPIDLY TOWARD FURTHER NORMALIZATION DURING THE BALANCE OF 1978, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF THREE PROJECTED MAJOR AUSTRIAN VISITS TO CSSR LATER IN YEAR. BILATERAL TRADE IS INCREASING AT MODEST RATE, CULTURAL EXCHANGES ARE GOING WELL AND AUSTRIAN TOURISM TO CSSR CONTINUES TO RISE. AUSTRIAN MFA FEELS THAT GOC IS "ANXIOUS" TO ACHIEVE SAME LEVEL OF BILATERAL RELATIONS AS EXISTS BETWEEN AUSTRIA AND HUNGARY. FROM GOA VIEWPOINT BIG STUMBLING BLOCK IN THIS REGARD IS INABILITY OF CSSR TO AGREE TO ANY CHANGE IN VISA REQUIREMENTS FOR AUSTRIANS AS CONTRASTED WITH HUNGARY WHICH WILL ABOLISH VISAS FOR AUSTRIANS BEGINNING IN 1979. GOA THEREFORE INTENDS TO FOLLOW SCENARIO IT USED SUCCESSFULLY WITH HUNGARIANS, NAMELY, INFORMALLY TO LINK INCENTIVES OF INCREASED TRADE AND INVESTMENT WITH POSITIVE ACTION ON VISAS. IT IS AWARE THAT OBJECTIVES MAY IN FACT TAKE YEARS TO ACHIEVE BUT IS ENCOURAGED BY WHAT IT READS TO BE READINESS ON CZECHOSLOVAK SIDE FOR PACED EXPANSION OF RELATIONS BENEFICIAL TO BOTH SIDES. WOLF

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